(a) whether Government are aware that in violation of the Explosives Act, several expired LPG cylinders are available in the market;

(b) whether the expired rusty gas cylinders have high possibility of accidents;

(c) the number of cases of expired gas cylinders of various gas companies that have come to the notice of Government and the action taken against them; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to stop the use of such cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

OMCs have not reported any case of expired gas cylinders from their marketing area of operations during the last three years.

Dividend declared by Oil Companies

142. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of central taxes/duties paid by the public sector oil companies to Government in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the amount of cess paid by ONGC and OIL during the same period; and

(c) the total dividend declared by the above companies during the above period, Company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) the details of central taxes/ duties paid by the PSU oil companies to the Government during 2003-04, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 is as under:—

Amount	(Rs./crores)
2003-04	65259
2004-05	70734
2005-06	74120

(b) OIDB Cess paid by ONGC and OIL during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given as under:—

Company	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Provisional)
ONGC	4194	4306	4242
OIL	537	585	615
Total	4731	4891	4859

(c) The dividend paid by PSU oil companies namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Gas Authority India Limited (GAIL), Engineers India Limited (EIL) to Central Government is as under:—

(Rs./crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
IOCL	2011.96	1964.06	958.08
ONGC	2736.42	4228.75	3119.00
HPCL	415.38	363.49	173.09
BPCL	377.34	327.69	148.95
OIL	288.91	336.00	609.91
GAIL	455.60	387.95	581.87
EIL	20.31	33.00	53.30
Total	6305.92	7640.94	5644.20